

# Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library



## SDSU Archives gathers COVID-19 stories

Materials often find their way to the Archives & Special Collections department years after their creation, when the moment of history that they reflect has passed. With today's historic COVID-19 events, however, the Archives staff saw an opportunity to gather firsthand stories of the pandemic now while the health crisis unfolds.

To do this, the Archives launched a new project, "Physically Apart, Socially Together: The SDSU and Brookings Experience of the COVID-19 Pandemic" (PAST). Anyone connected to SDSU or Brookings area communities is invited to share their stories of life during the outbreak by visiting <https://www.sdstate.edu/sdsu-archives-and-special-collections/physically-apart-socially-together>.

PAST contributors decide what to record, which digital or physical format to use for the documentation, and how much material to donate to the project. Examples of types of contributions are listed in the sidebar.

These personal accounts will be maintained

in the online PAST collection for research and scholarship about the pandemic.

"PAST gives the SDSU and Brookings communities the opportunity to preserve their stories of managing during this challenging and ever-changing event," Michele

Christian, Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, said. "These stories will be used by future generations to better understand our experiences of COVID-19."

PAST submissions are accepted throughout and after the pandemic period. An online form is

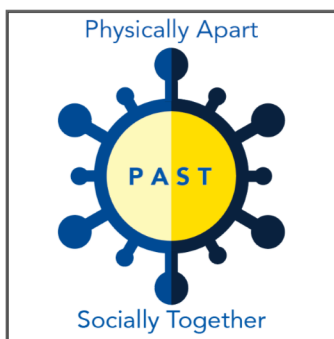
available for digital submissions. Contributors can bring in physical items once the library has reopened, or mail materials to:

SDSU Archives & Special Collections  
1300 North Campus Drive

Box 2115

Brookings, SD 57007

Questions about donating to PAST can be directed to [arcrcfs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrcfs@sdstate.edu).



*The SDSU community and Brookings area residents and businesses can shape the PAST collection for future scholars and researchers by sharing their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contributions may include things such as:*

- Journal entries and poems
- Photographs and artwork
- Social media posts, blogs and digital storytelling
- Video and audio recordings
- Images and descriptions of work-at-home environments
- Recipes of meals made during the pandemic
- Faculty notes about the transition to online classes
- Business documents that respond to the crisis, such as announcements or adapted menus for pickup/delivery
- Homemade face masks

## Notes from the Chief University Librarian

What a strange new world this is. However, some of the changes we've experienced at SDSU may represent a return to our past. Over the past two hundred years universities have become massively complex organisms with multiple constituents, goals and expectations, but that wasn't always the case. In reaction to global health concerns, at the beginning of March SDSU constricted into our most basic of missions: delivering education for our students while maintaining



Kristi Tornquist

years, but some of the complexities have made it easier for us to adjust in these unprecedented times. For example, although the breadth of resources we offer has

our research and service endeavors where possible. We weren't even a residential campus during the last half of Spring semester.

What did this mean for Briggs Library?

Libraries, like universities, have also become more complex over the

expanded, we already make available the vast majority of these resources electronically to SDSU faculty and students anytime and anywhere. So the shift to fully online education during Spring semester was relatively seamless for library information seekers.

In fact, for libraries, business is booming as we facilitate the sharing of the world's knowledge resources. Of course, we missed seeing people in the building, but we were happy to be interacting with them via e-mail, phone, chat and Zoom. And, our numbers skyrocketed for off-campus access. After closing the building in March, we averaged 60,000 hits per day to our

*Continued on page 4*

## Schleicher and Rinehart retire after long services to Briggs Library

Two longtime Briggs Library employees have closed the book on their time behind the desk.

Susan Schleicher and Sharon Rinehart both recently retired.

Rinehart started at SDSU in 1987 and worked with Campus Security and Agricultural Engineering before coming to the library in 1991. She worked in several areas of the library, most recently in Access Services. In December 2019, she retired after nearly 33 years of service.

Schleicher retired as Reference Associate in May 2020 after almost 23 years with Briggs Library. During that time, she watched library materials transition from print to digital.

"When I started in 1997, most of the collection, books and serials, were in print," Schleicher said. "I remember when I worked in the Serials department and publishers first

started offering free online access with our print subscriptions. We were over-the-roof excited. Now, a lot of our purchases are for online products."

She also noted how the building changed to offer more study areas, and that the library continues to be a place where students desire to go to use the space and technology.

One of the best parts of her job was the people she worked with.

"I have absolutely loved working at Briggs. I love being around the students, helping them, and watching them mature over the four to five years that they are on campus. I think they helped keep me young-at-heart," Schleicher said. "And I have had many great co-workers who made it fun to come to work every day. I'm truly going to miss the people most of all."

Traveling and visits with

*Continued on page 4*



Sharon Rinehart



Susan Schleicher

## Library Services Adjust to Building Closure

*Briggs Library quickly took action to continue service to its patrons and accommodate the online teaching and learning needs of the SDSU community when the campus closed this semester due to COVID-19. Here are a few ways the library has carried out its mission:*

- Interlibrary Loan expanded its scanning services of articles and book chapters for students and faculty. Archives scanned papers from their collections for students' capstone projects.
- Technical Services set up access to temporary free resources made available from publishers.
- Librarians extended hours for chat and email assistance.
- Archives began the process of collecting materials related to the COVID-19 experience of community members. (See page 1)
- Several Zoom reference sessions and information literacy instruction for online classes were held.
- A new South Dakota Community Cookbook Collection website was launched on [www.sdstate.edu/sdsu-archives-and-special-collections](http://www.sdstate.edu/sdsu-archives-and-special-collections).
- Catalog records were added for open access titles.
- A library services guide for online course delivery was made, as well as class webpages and tutorials.

## IR hits one million downloads

Why use the SDSU institutional repository (IR) for research? There are only a million reasons.

The IR website (<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu>) – which provides worldwide public access to documents created by SDSU departments, faculty, students and staff – saw its one millionth download on April



29. That's double the number of downloads from just a year ago.

The IR came online in September 2015 as a service of Briggs Library under the name Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository

and Information Exchange (Open PRAIRIE). The SDSU IR was the first of its kind in South Dakota. Michael Biondo, IR coordinator, has managed Open PRAIRIE's growth since its early stages.

"The site has really started to flourish and I'm glad that it's been a success for the library team and everyone involved," Biondo said. He said the IR will continue to grow with the addition of more materials, such as theses and dissertations.

Currently, the most downloaded paper in Open PRAIRIE is "Effects of Student Athletics on Academic Performance" by Nicole Grimit, which has been downloaded 97,812 times since March 2016.



<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu>

**PAPERS  
ADDED  
19,023**

**DOWNLOADS  
WORLDWIDE  
1,074,263**

Open PRAIRIE is the SDSU public access institutional repository (IR). A Briggs Library service since September 2015, the IR supports the collection, preservation and dissemination of SDSU's scholarship and creative output. It provides permanent storage of and public access to institutional materials.

## Doner Auditorium project progresses with SDHC grant

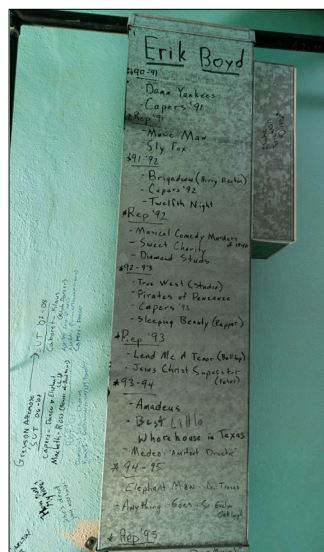
The Doner Auditorium digital preservation project is moving forward, thanks to a South Dakota Humanities Council grant.

The Archives & Special Collections launched this project in the summer of 2019 in an effort to preserve and promote unique SDSU theatre history. Doner Auditorium's backstage holds four decades worth of theatre program students' inscriptions, including signatures, dates, season lineups, and favorite lines from plays.

Built in 1912, Doner Auditorium hosted hundreds of Prairie Repertory Theatre and State University Theatre shows. Now that the theatre program has moved to the new Performing Arts Center, Doner Auditorium will eventually be repurposed. The Archives sought to maintain the SDSU theatre history by creating an interactive online exhibit using photos of the backstage and digital materials from the Archives' Theatre Collection. This exhibit will provide a literal behind-the-scenes view of the theatre program, and will increase public access to materials in the Theatre Collection that are presently only viewable in person. The

exhibit is planned to go live in May 2021.

Funds began to be raised with the announcement of the project. These gifts made the photography of the green room and three small adjacent rooms possible. Thanks to a \$7,000 SDHC grant and the remaining donations, the eight other backstage spaces will be photographed and a temporary Archives assistant will be dedicated to the project's digitization, processing and exhibit creation. The work is planned to start this summer. The SDHC is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Theatre student inscriptions cover the Doner Auditorium's backstage areas. (Briggs Library photo)

## BRIGGS LIBRARY WISH LIST

There are many ways to add to the success of the library! Here are some things we're looking for that you may like to consider donating.

- **\$200 for shipping costs** for the National Library of Medicine's *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature* traveling exhibit in Fall 2020.
- **\$850 for a one-year subscription** to *Access to Memory*, the new content management system for Archives.
- **Funds to purchase student artwork** that will be displayed in the library.

The Briggs Library Wish List is online at [www.sdstate.edu/hilton-m-briggs-library/briggs-library-wish-list](http://www.sdstate.edu/hilton-m-briggs-library/briggs-library-wish-list).

## Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library

*Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library are people who support the library, whether through monetary or material donations, or as library advocates.*

*A Friends of the Library contribution comes with benefits including invitations to library programs, a newsletter, a digital bookplate on the library website and a Jack Read poster.*

*For more information about Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library, or becoming a donor or volunteer, please contact the Library Operations Manager at Emmeline.Weber@sdstate.edu or (605) 688-5564.*

Support Starts  
@Briggs

## The Impact of Friends

Gifts from Friends of the Hilton M. Briggs Library directly support the library's efforts to advance scholarly excellence in a welcoming space for South Dakota State University's students, faculty, staff and community.

To make a gift as a Friend of the Hilton M. Briggs Library, fill out and detach this portion of the sheet, and send it and the contribution to:

SDSU Foundation  
(70760 SDSU Library Fund)  
Box 525  
Brookings, South Dakota 57007

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

SDSU Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your gift to support the library?

☐ book purchases or online resources ☐ library event sponsorship  
☐ Archives and Special Collections ☐ library artwork  
☐ student assistant scholarships ☐ greatest need  
☐ furniture and equipment updates ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like: ☐ a digital bookplate and/or ☐ a Jack Read poster

Please note any correction to the name or address as listed on the back:



### *Notes, cont. from page 1*

library electronic resources. You can review some of the additional services we offered since March on page 2.

An exciting milestone for us in electronic delivery came at the end of April when Open PRAIRIE, our institutional repository, achieved 1 million downloads. Open PRAIRIE hosts over 19,000 papers, created by SDSU faculty, staff and students, which are freely available to researchers around the world (see page 2). Our social distancing is safe but impacting a global audience.

During these challenging times, we have realized a responsibility to document and communicate this moment for the future. Thus, we have launched

a project to record the COVID-19 experience at SDSU and in the region. Please look at the article on page 1 and consider contributing to PAST.

Is this our “new normal?” We sure hope not, but I’m encouraged that we have been able to continue to deliver library resources and services in support of the university. Library employees are beginning to work in the Briggs building again, and we soon hope to be opening our doors and welcoming our patrons. Sadly, one of those patrons will not be Emeritus Professor John Miller. John was in Briggs Library nearly every day for years. We were saddened to learn of his passing on May 1, and he will be sorely missed. It is hard to imagine Briggs Library without his presence.

### *Retired, cont. from page 2*

her nine grandchildren are in the retirement plans for Schleicher, plus more time for her blog, The Book Bag.

“I have a book blog and I’m really

looking forward to getting in more reading time and supporting authors,” Schleicher said.

Best wishes to Schleicher and Rinehart in their retirement!

## Explore Briggs Online!

### *A Highlight of the Digital Library of South Dakota*



Summer is around the corner! Geraniums adorn the walkway to Hilton M. Briggs Library in this 1999 photo. (<https://explore.digitalsd.org>)

**Briggs** @  
Hilton M. Briggs Library

Hilton M. Briggs Library South  
Dakota State University 1300  
N. Campus Drive  
Box 2115  
Brookings, South Dakota 57007  
www.sdsu.edu/hlibrary  
Phone: (605) 688-5107  
Toll Free: (800) 786-2038  
E-mail: [bliref@sdsu.edu](mailto:bliref@sdsu.edu)

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